

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00
DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
H-01 ARAE-00 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /110 W
-----061625Z 084533 /45

P R 061430Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2040
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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USIA EA

EO 11652 NA
TAGS TECH ENRG PARM BR GW
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS- TREATMENT IN BRAZILIAN PRESS

REF: BRASILIA 4482 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS ON NUCLEAR
ISSUES THIS PAST WEEK WERE: (Q) PLANS FOR DELIVERY OF THE FIRST
SHIPMENT OF FUEL TO ANGRA I;

(2) RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON BRAZILIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD
THE FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT;

(3) BACKGROUND COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ON SILVEIRA
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INTERVIEW IN PARIS AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY; (R) REACTION IN
LONDON TO NOMINATION OF GERALD SMITH; (5) REMARKS BY SILVEIRA
UPON ARRIVAL IN BRASILIA; (6) ALLEGED INTERVIEW BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE ON THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, MAY 29 THE FIRST SHIPMENT

OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE ANGRA I NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WILL ARRIVE IN BRAZIL IN OCTOBER, PROTECTED BY SILENCE. THIS FIRST SHIPMENT THE PAPER SAYS, IS A PORTION OF THE PURCHASE EFFECTED IN APRIL 1973 FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR FUEL CORPORATION; A SERIES OF OTHER SHIPMENTS IS FORESEEN BY DECEMBER. THE URANIUM WAS MANUFACTURED INTO YELLO CAKE IN ENGLAND, THE PAPER CLAIMS, AND AFTERWARDS ENRICHED IN THE UNITED STATES. TECHNICIANS AT ANGRA I ADMIT THAT THE FIRST EXPERIMENTAL TESTS OF THE REACTOR WOULD NOW TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY 1978, AND THAT THE PLANT WOULD NOT BEGIN OPERATION AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR, A DELAY OF SIX MONTHS. DETAILS ON THE SHIPMENT WOULD BE KEPT SECRET, IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IAEA, WHICH WOULD SUPERVISE THE SHIPMENT.

3. GAZETA MERCANTIL, BRAZIL'S MAJOR ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER, MAY 31, CARRIED THE RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY IN RIO AND SAO PAULO. THE SAMPLE UNIVERSE, THE PAPER SAYS, INCLUDED UNIVERSITY-EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS, MOTLY YOUNG PEOPLE, AND PERSONS OF THE HIGHEST INCOME CATEGORY. 55 PERCENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED BELIEVE THAT THE LIMITATIONS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE DISSEMINATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AIM ONLY AT DEFENDING US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. 41 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN RIO AND 46 PERCENT OF THOSE IN SAO PAUL O BELIEVE THAT BRAZIL SHOULD CONTINUE FFORTS TO OBRAIN GERMAN ASSISTANCE.. MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN BOTH CITIES WERE OF THE OPINION THAT BRAZIL SHOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN TECHNOLOGY. THE FIRST OPTION, THE PAPER REPORTED, WAS DEFENDED BY HIGHLY EDUCAHAD, POLITICALLY INTERESTED, UPPER-CLASS INDIVIDUALS; THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WAS PREFERRED BY YOUNG PEOPLE (15 TO 29 YEARS), SYMPATHIZERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PERSONS WITH AN INTENSE INTEREST IN POLITICS. THE POLLING AGENCY HAD ALSO ANALYZED INTERNATIONAL PRESS REACTION. A FIFTH OF 3770 FOREIGN NEWS ITEMS ON BRAZIL, DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, HAD BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT; OF THIS 36.7 PERCENT HAD BEEN FAVORABLE, AND 51.7 PERCENT NEUTRAL, WITH ONLY 11.4 PERCENT UNFAVORABLE.

4. UNDER HEADING, "INTAMARATI STILL BELIEVES INPRESSURES", O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, JUNE 2, REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SPICALISTS

HAD REACTED WITH RESERVE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S STATEMENT IN PARIS THAT THE US HAS CEASED PRESSURES AGAINST THE NUCLEAR ACCORD. THE MATTER WAS NOT QUITE SO SIMPLE, THE SPECIALISTS HAD SAID, FOR A COUNTRY SUCH AS THE US SUDDENLY TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, THE SPECIALISTS NOTED, HAD USED FAR MORE CAUSTIOUS LANGUAGE THAN THE FOREIGN

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MINISTER. HODDING CARTER HAD STATED THAT THE CONCERNS OF THE US ABOUT THE NUCLEAR ACCORD HAD BEEN DISCUSSED (BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND SILVEIRA), BUT IN A GENERIC MANNER NOT IN TERMS OF A DECISION. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ARGUED, THE PAPER REPORTED, THAT SILVEIRA SPOKE AS IF THERE HAD BEEN A DECISION WHILE THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD SAID EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPECIALISTS, O ESTADO CONTINUED, SAID THAT THE PROSPECT OF AN END OF US PRESSURES COULD BE BETTER EVALUATED AFTER MRS. CARTER'S VISIT AND THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND SILVEIRA IN GRENADA. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE NOTED, THE PAPER SAID, THAT SILVEIRA'S STATEMENT WAS MADE AFTER THE MEETING WITH GENSCHER AND THAT THEREFORE THIS INFORMATION HAD COME FROM GENSCHER, NOT DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY. AFTER SUCH INCESSANT PRESSURE, THE OBSERVER HAD ASKED, WAS THE US IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A CONDITION SUDDENTLY TO ABANDON THE PRINCIPLE IT HAD BEEN DEFENDING?

6. ALSO JUNE 2, O ESTADO'S CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT THE NOMINATION OF GERALD SMITH WAS SEEN IN LONDON AS CONFIRMATION THAT WASHINGTON WOULD CONTINUE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSFER OF CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY TO NATIONS SUCH AS BRAZIL, PAKISTAN, AND JAPAN, WHICH DESIRES TO USE PLUTONIUM OR FAST BREEDER REACTORS. IT WAS CURIOUS THAT SMITH'S NOMINATION HAD COINCIDED WITH THE MEETING BETWEEN SILVEIRA AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE. SILVEIRA'S STATEMENT WAS CONSIDERED IN LONDON AS HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC. THERE WAS GREAT SCEPTICISM WITH RESPECT TO SUCH STATEMENTS, THE CORRESPONDENT REPORTED, INASMUCH AS AMERICAN SOURCES CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT THE US WAS NOT CHANGING ITS ATTITUDE, USING SOFTER LANGUAGE BUT MAINTAINING ITS CLEAR OPPOSITION TO THE ULTIMATE STATE OF THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, I.E. URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING.

7. THERE WAS NO ILLUSION IN LONDON, THE ARTICLE CONTINUES AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN US POLICY, AND THE SAME SEEMED TO OCCUR IN BONN, PROTESTS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING. PRESSURES ON THE FRG RESUMED AFTER THE LONDON SUMMIT IN WHICH CALLAGHAN HAD ENDEAVORED TO AVOID A HEAD-ON CLASH BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. IN THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN GROMYKO AND THE SECRETARY, THE ARTICLE SAYS, THE TWO MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO ACT TOGETHER ON THIS QUESTION AND HAD ALSO EXAMINED THE TLATALOLCO TREATY IN TERMS OF THE ASSUMPTION OF A JOINT EFFORT TO BRING THE TREATY INTO FORCE.

8. JORNAL DO BRASIL, JUNE 3, REPORTING SILVEIRA'S RETURN TO BRASILIA FROM THE APRIS CONFERENCE, SAID SILVEIRA HAD EMPHASIZED HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AS A POSITIVE FACT, "WHICH PERMITTED HIM TO SAY, AT THE AIRPORT, THAT AMERICAN PRESSURES AGAINST THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAD PRACTICALLY CEASED. 'I THINK THAT TODAY THERE IS A GREATER UNDERSTANDING IN THIS RESPECT'". IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON, THE PAPER REPORTED ALSO JUNE 3, THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD ATTEMPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BRING BACK TO NORMAL US-BRAZIL RELATIONS RECENTLY SHAKEN BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION AND THE NUCLEAR ACCORD; AND, IN THIS CONNECTION,

NOTED THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO VISIT BRASIL. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, THE PAPER CLAIMS, THE SECRETARY HAD REITERATED THAT "THE SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE US- INITIATED BY EX-SECRETARY KISSINGER--STILL EXIST AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST".

9. O ESTADO, JUNE 4, CARRIED REPORT FROM THE PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, RUY BARBOSA, REPORTING A DENIAL BY THE DEPARTMENT JUNE 3 THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROLIFERATION OF REPROCESSING PLANTS. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE RECENT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SILVEIRA, THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAD GUARANTEED

THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. ANOTHER DEPARTMENT SOURCE HAD REINFORCED THE SPOKESMAN'S DECLARATIONS; QUOTING THE PRRESIDENT, HE HD EMPHASIZED THAT US CONCERNS WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE FRG-BRAZILIAN ACCORD BUT EXTENDED TO ALL COUNTIRES WHICH ALREADY POSSESS OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING REPRO-CESSING FACILITIES.

10. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE REPORTING O ESTADO'S MAY 29 ARTICLE FOR COMPLETENESS, EMBASSY HAS IN THE MEANTIME RECEIVED CORRECT SCHEDULE FROM RESPONSIBLE FURNAS SOURCES; O ESTADO'S ARTICLE IS ONLY PARTIALLY CORRECT ACCORDING TO THAT INFORMATION (SEPTTEL).
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